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PETER PARKER THE SPECTACULAR
SPIDER-MAN

FEATURING
THE DRAMATIC
RETURN OF
THE
BLACK CAT!

PLUS
THE CATASTROPHIC
CLIMAX OF THE OWL
OCTOPUS WAR!



THE FINAL CONFRONTATION

BLACK
CAT--

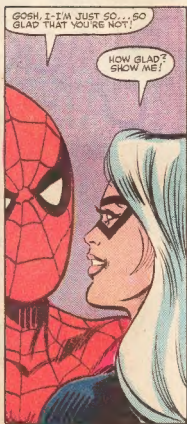
--YOU'RE
ALIVE!!

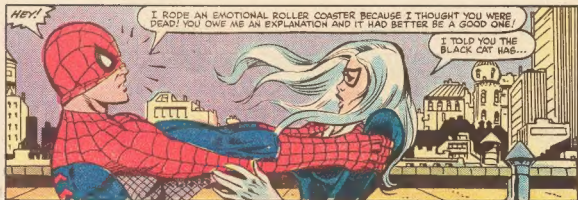


**FERAE
NATURAE**
(WILD BEASTS)

BILL MANTLO * **AL MILGROM** * **JIM MOONEY** * **JOE ROSEN** * **BOB SHAREN** * **TOM DEFALCO** * **JIM SHOOTER**
SCRIPTER BREAKDOWNS INKER LETTERER COLORIST EDITOR CHIEF

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WHY NOT?
TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED!

IMAGES COMING AS FAST AS MACHINE GUN FIRE. SPIDER-MAN
RECALLS THE LAST TIME HE'D SEEN THE CAT...



SHE'D TRIED TO ROB
THE MOB. HE'D TRIED
TO STOP HER... BUT
FAILED.



TOGETHER,
THEY'D
ESCAPED...

END OF
THE LINE,
FELICIA!
I'M TURNING
YOU OVER
TO THE
POLICE!



BUT SHE'D
ESCAPED HIM.

YOU WITCH! COME
BACK WITH MY BIKE!



LATER, ON THE
DOCKS, HE'D
SNARED HER WITH
A WEB-LINE...



BUT, TO HIS
SURPRISE,
SHE TOOK
IT WITH
HER!

I WON'T GO TO JAIL!
I'D RATHER DIE FIRST!

FELICIA,
DON'T--!

TIME AND AGAIN, HE DIVED INTO THOSE COLD, DARK WATERS DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR HER...

...TO NO AVAIL!

LATER, WHEN POLICE CAPTAIN JEAN DUWOLFF ARRIVED WITH A PARDON FOR HER CRIMES...

YOU'RE TOO LATE.

I'M SORRY.

YOU ARRANGED A PARDON FOR ME, LOVER? NOW SWEET!

NO MORE NONSENSE, FELICIA! I WANT ANSWERS! WHERE WERE YOU?

WELL, I WAS DROWNING...

"YOUR WEBBING STUCK LIKE A SECOND SKIN!

"FORTUNATELY, IT WAS STUCK TO MY COSPLAY AND NOT ME!

"--AND WAS ABOUT TO SWIM AWAY AND SURPRISE YOU, WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SURPRISED ME!

"TO MY AMAZE-
MENT,
THEY
WORKED
FOR...
DOCTOR
OCTOPUS!

"I MANAGED TO WRIGGLE OUT OF IT--

"AND I BECAME HIS GUEST!"



DOC OCK'S GUEST?!

WELL, HE
WOULDN'T LET
ME LEAVE, BUT
I THINK HE
KIND OF LIKED
ME...



LADY, YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT A
DEADLY MEGALOMANIAC!
RIGHT NOW HE AND THE
OWL ARE PREPARING
TO TURN THE BIG
APPLE INTO A
BATTLEFIELD!



MORE LIKE A BONEYARD,
LOVER. IF OCK HAS HIS WAY!

YOU SEE, HE'S
NOT INTERESTED
IN **BLACKMAIL**
LIKE THE OWL!
HE WANTS TO
PROVE A POINT!

WHAT
POINT??

THAT
DOCTOR
OCTOPUS IS
THE MOST
DANGEROUS
MAN ALIVE!



AND HE INTENDS
TO DEMONSTRATE THAT
BY KILLING EVERY MAN,
WOMAN AND CHILD IN
NEW YORK CITY...
WITH THIS!



WHAT IS IT?

SEARCH ME!
I HEARD
OCTOPUS
PLOTING TO
STEAL IT
FROM THE
KINGPIN
OF CRIME!

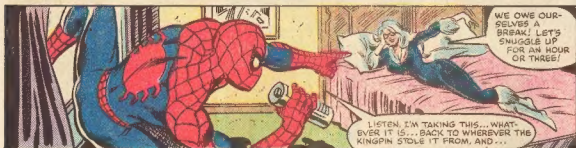
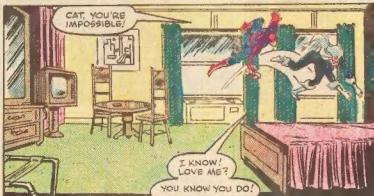


"BUT THE KINGPIN FOOLED OCK WITH A DECOY,
AND WAS LAUGHING LIKE A BOWL FULL OF JELLY--"

"--WHEN I SLIPPED IN
AND RELIEVED HIM
OF THE REAL MOON!"

#LAST ISH! 6

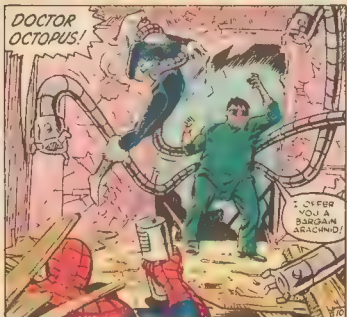








IT'S HIM! HE'S
HERE! HE KNOWS
THE CAT BETRAYED
HIM-- AND HE'S
COME AFTER
HER!

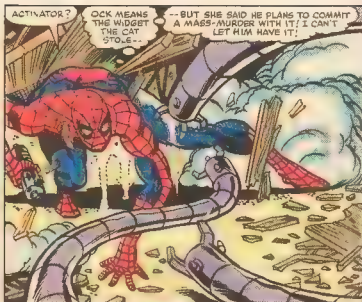


DOCTOR
OCTOPUS!

I OFFER
YOU A
BARGAIN
ARACHNID!



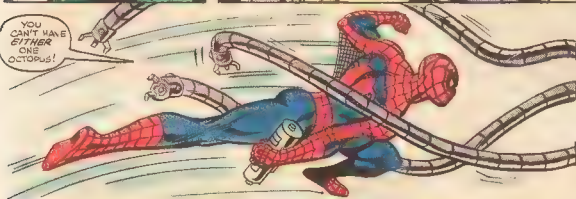
THE ACTIVATOR
IN EXCHANGE
FOR THE LADY'S
LIFE!



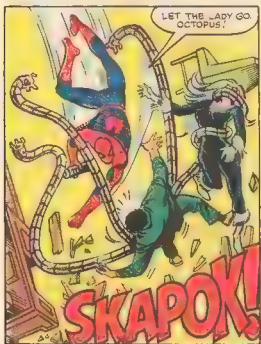
ACTIVATOR?

OCK MEANS
THE WIDGET
THE CAT
STOLE...

-- BUT SHE SAID HE PLANS TO COMMIT
A MASS-MURDER WITH IT! I CAN'T
LET HIM HAVE IT!



YOU
CAN'T HAVE
EITHER
ONE
OCTOPUS!



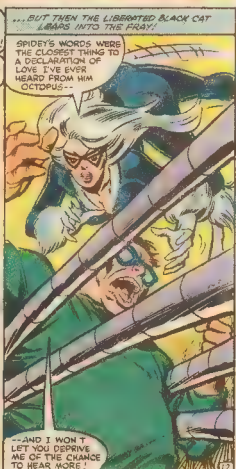
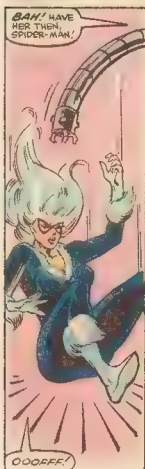
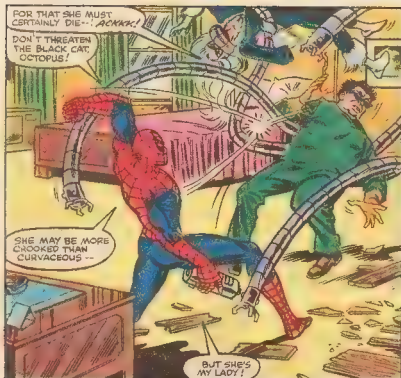
LET THE LADY GO
OCTOPUS!

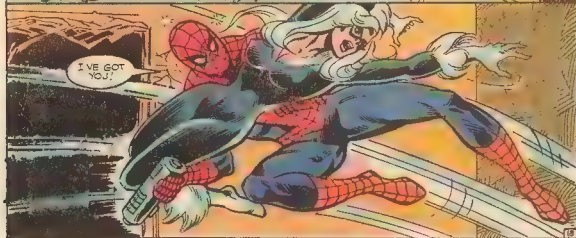
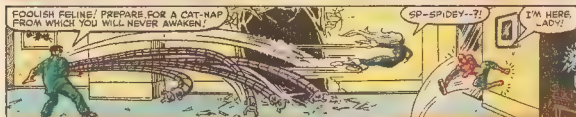
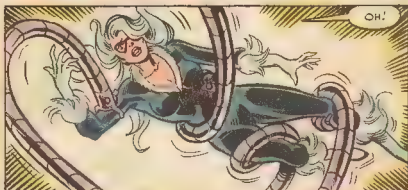
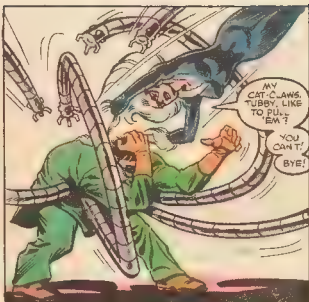
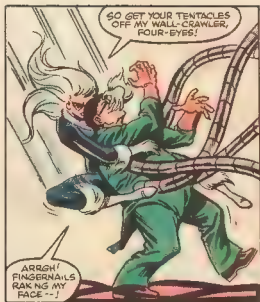
СКАПОК!

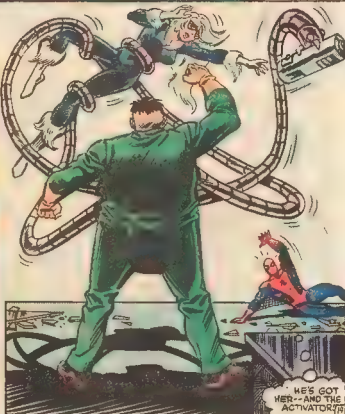
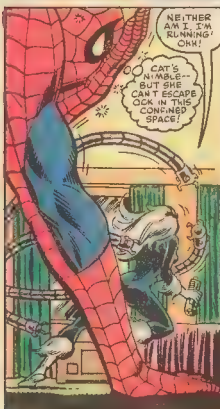
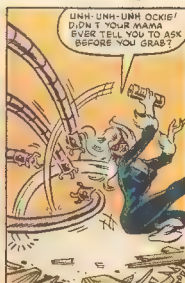
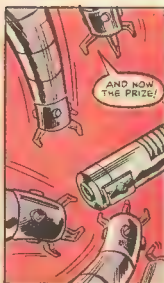
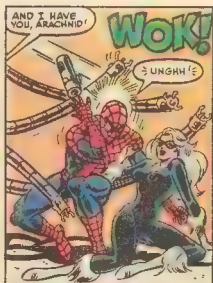


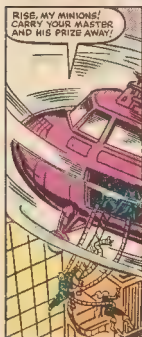
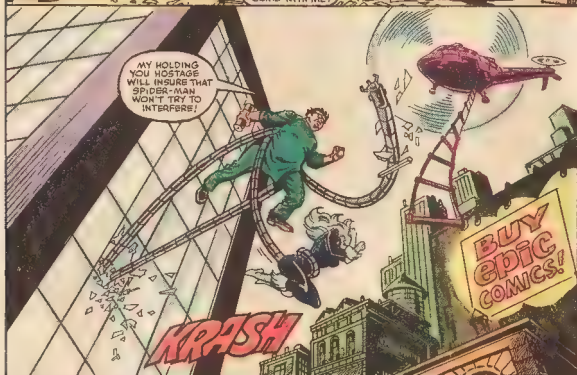
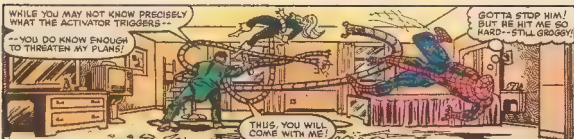
THAT STRONG-ARM
STUFF IS NO
SUBSTITUTE FOR
CHIVALRY!

SHE ABUSED MY
HOSPITALITY, WALL-
CRAWLER-- OVER-
HEARD ALL MY
PLANS-- AND THEN
BETRAYED ME!









LATER...



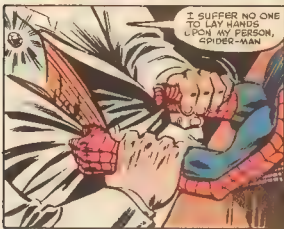


— BUT
THEY FAIL!

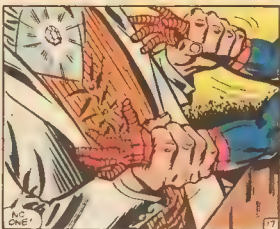


YOU KNOW
EVERYTHING
GOING ON IN
THE UNDERWORLD,
FAT MAN!

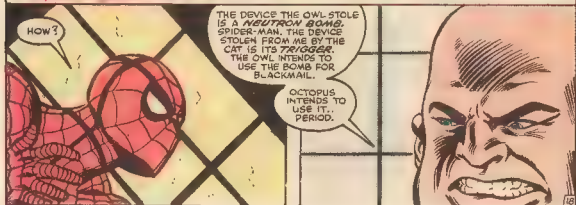
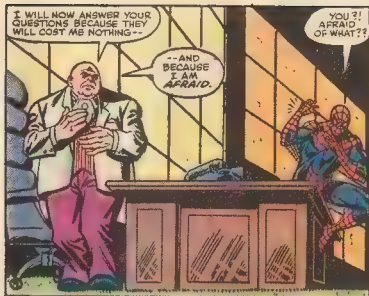
I WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
YOU KNOW!
NOW!



I SUFFER NO ONE
TO LAY HANDS
UPON MY PERSON,
SPIDER-MAN



NO
ONE!

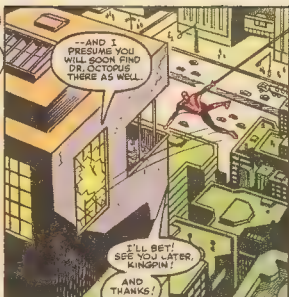




I HAVE ALREADY BEGUN RELOCATING MY HUMAN RESOURCES, AND WILL SOON LEAVE MYSELF

YOU'RE ALREADY DESERTING THE SHIP I WANT TO SAVE?!

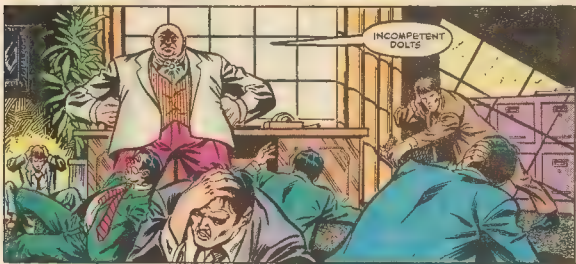
DO AS YOU WISH. THE OWL IS AT HIS ABERGE--



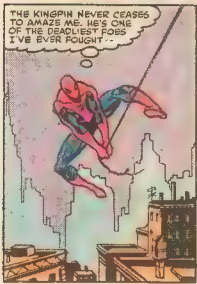
--AND I PRESUME YOU WILL SOON FIND DR. OCTOPUS THERE AS WELL.

I'LL BET! SEE YOU LATER, KINGPIN!

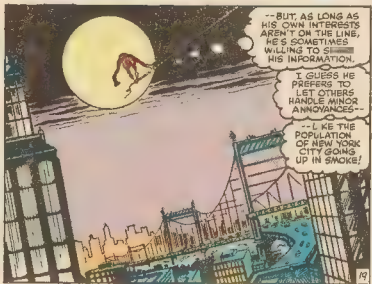
AND THANKS!



INCOMPETENT DOLTS



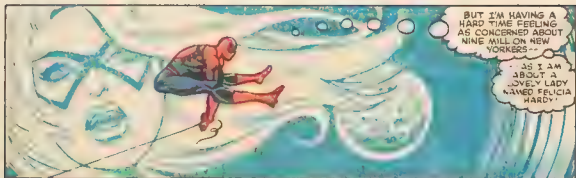
THE KINGPIN NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME. HE'S ONE OF THE DEADLIEST FOES I'VE EVER FOUGHT--

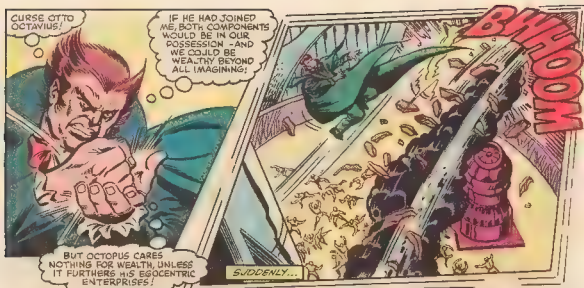


--BUT, AS LONG AS HIS OWN INTERESTS AREN'T ON THE LINE, HE'S SOMETIMES WILLING TO SHARE HIS INFORMATION.

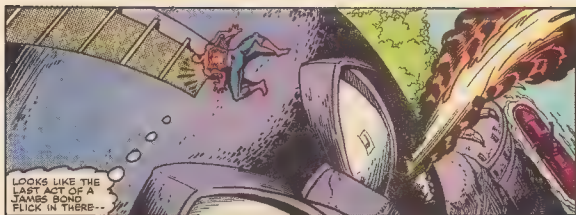
I GUESS HE PREFERS TO LET OTHERS HANDLE MINOR ANNOYANCES--

--LIKE THE POPULATION OF NEW YORK CITY GOING UP IN SMOKE!





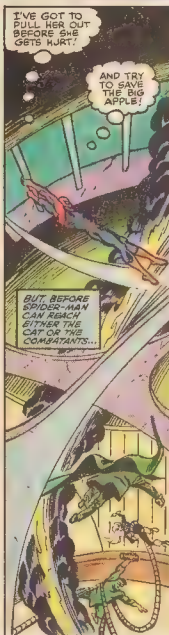




LOOKS LIKE THE
LAST ACT OF A
JAMES BOND
FLICK IN THERE--



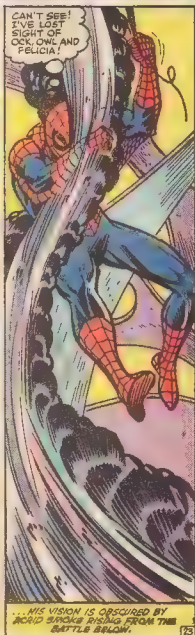
--AND THE
CAT'S RIGHT
IN THE THICK
OF IT!



I'VE GOT TO
PULL HER OUT
BEFORE SHE
GETS HURT!

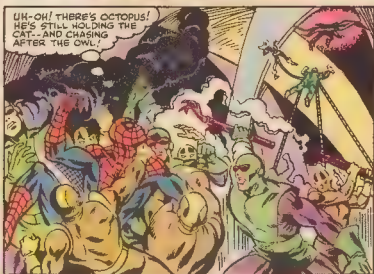
AND TRY
TO SAVE
THE BIG
APPLE!

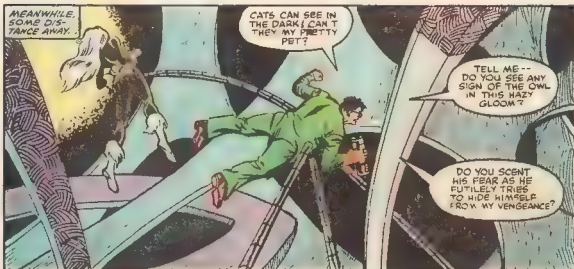
BUT BEFORE
SPIDER-MAN
CAN REACH
EITHER THE
CAT OR THE
COMBATANTS...



CAN'T SEE!
I'VE LOST
SIGHT OF
OCK, OWL AND
FELICIA!

...HIS VISION IS OBSCURED BY
ACRID SMOKE RISING FROM THE
BATTLE BELOW.





MEANWHILE,
SOME DIS-
TANCE AWAY.

CATS CAN SEE IN
THE DARK! CAN T
THEY MY PRETTY
PET?

TELL ME--
DO YOU SEE ANY
SIGN OF THE OWL
IN THIS WAZY
GLOOM?

DO YOU SCENT
HIS FEAR AS HE
FUTILELY TRIES
TO HIDE HIMSELF
FROM MY VENGEANCE?

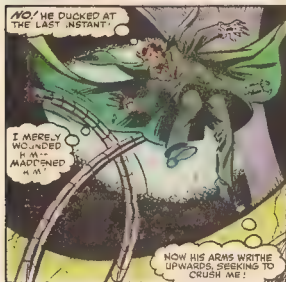


BOAST WHILE YOU STILL CAN, OCTOPUS--
BUT YOU ARE SLOWLY MOVING INTO
POSITION TO
DIE--



--AS MY
RAZOR-
SHARP
TALONS
RAKE YOUR
FLESH!

SKRITT



NO! HE DUCKED AT
THE LAST INSTANT!

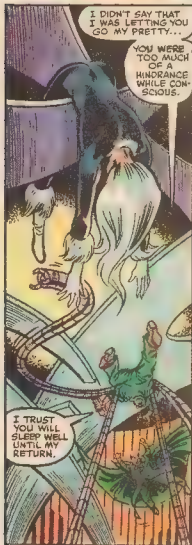
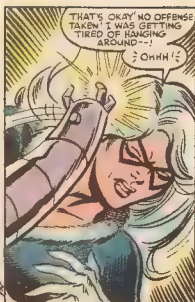
I MERELY
WOUNDED
HIM--
MADDENED
HIM!

NOW HIS ARMS WRITHE
UPWARDS, SEEKING TO
CRUSH ME!



I CAN EITHER RUN, OR GO ON THE
OFFENSIVE! I WILL NOT RUN!

STEALING THE NEUTRON
DEVICE WAS MY IDEA--MY
PLAN! I'LL NOT SURRENDER
IT SO EASILY TO OCTOPUS!





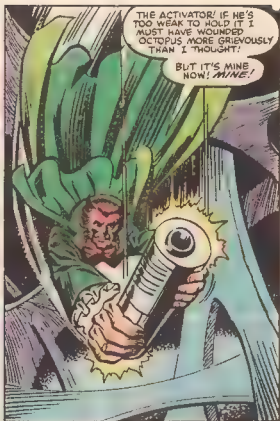
THE OWL
CAN SEE IN
THIS STYGIAN
DARKNESS
I CANNOT

HE USES THAT
ABILITY TO HIS
ADVANTAGE.



BUT I HAVE SOMETHING
THE OWL CRAVES

LET HIM
SWOOP
FOR IT.



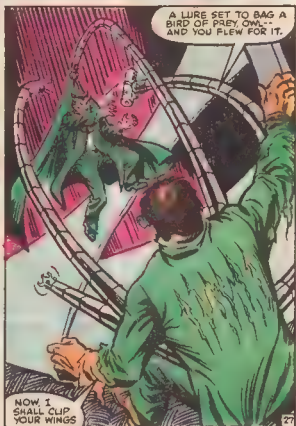
THE ACTIVATOR! IF HE'S
TOO WEAK TO HOLD IT I
MUST HAVE WOUNDED
OCTOPUS MORE GRIEVOUSLY
THAN I THOUGHT!

BUT IT'S MINE
NOW! *MINE!*



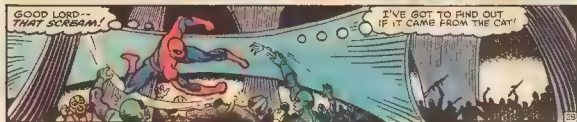
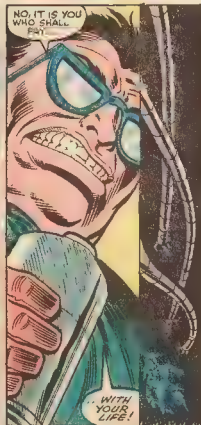
AND YOU, OWL--
ARE *MINE!*

OCTOPUS--
ABOVE ME! IT
WAS A TRAP!



A LURE SET TO BAG A
BIRD OF PREY, OWL--
AND YOU FLEW FOR IT.

NOW, I
SHALL CLIP
YOUR WINGS

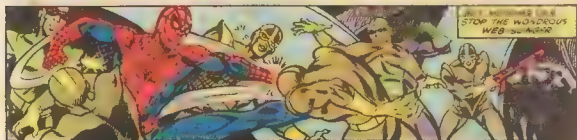


THOUGH HE IS SURROUNDED AND ASSAULTED BY ALL MENACE MEN, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN BATTLES LIKE A MAN POSSESSED.

FOR PLANT IN JACK
DOWN THE MANAGED
TO SHADE TO DO JOB
HE TRIED A
NEW IN RETURN



OPONENTS
FALL... OTHERS
TAKE THEIR
PLACES!



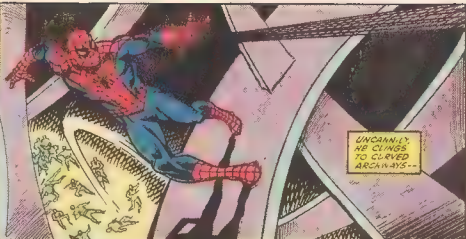
LET'S REMEMBER LIKE
STOP THE WONDEROUS
WEB SINGER



IF YOU'VE HURT THE
BLACK CAT, OCTOPUS--

--YOU'RE A
DEAD MAN!

THOUGH IT IS AS
DARK AS PITCH
INSIDE THE OWLS
AERIE THE AMAZING
ARACHNID'S SPIDER-
SENSE LEADS HIM
UNERRINGLY FOR-
WARD...

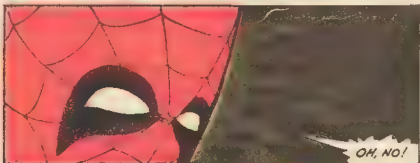


UNCANNILY,
HE CLINGS
TO CURVED
ARCHWAYS--

--AND SWINGS
THROUGH SPACE
ON HIS WONDROUS
WEB-- HE--



I'M GETTING
CLOSER! I CAN
SENSE IT!



OH, NO!

THE OWL.
OR
WHAT'S LEFT
OF HIM!



--WHICH IS SO IMPOSSIBLY
SLENDER AS TO ALMOST
APPEAR INVISIBLE, AND
YET, SO INCREDIBLY STRONG
AS TO BE ALMOST UN-
BREAKABLE!

BULLPEN BULLETINS

STAN LEE..

Fearless Publisher, President, and Creative Director of Mighty Marvel called me up from his office out in Los Angeles today. He thought he'd take out a few minutes from being a Hollywood Mogul to check in with me, your large, menacing-looking, omery-but-basically-lovable Editor-in-Chief—just to see how the comics were doing. Well, I was delighted to tell him that the comics are doing great! This is our best year ever!

Needless to say, Stan was thoroughly impressed—but, he said something that made me very proud to know him. He said, "Jim, I love to hear that sales are good, but sometimes good sales can be a short-term fluke—what I really care about is whether or not the comics are good. If the comics are good, sales will take care of themselves." My sentiments exactly! Anyway, since Stan is a little behind in his reading, being that he's a busy film biz exec and all, I proceeded to tell him all about what's been going on in all our current titles, what's going on now, and all the daring, exciting developments I've got planned. When I finished he was ecstatic! He said, "Jim, what you've got in the works is fantastic! It's the best plotting I've ever heard—of the kind of stuff that makes Marvel number one! I'm absolutely delighted!"

I feel like a million bucks!

WHICH BRINGS UP ..

the rumor of the month. It seems that some strange folks out there have been spreading the weird notion that we here at The House of Ideas are planning to make all sorts of drastic, destructive changes, tearing down everything we've built up over the years on a number of our top titles—even killing off a passel of Marvel stars!

What balderdash!

Change, of course, is the essence of what makes the Marvel Universe come alive—and it's damned if I'll ever let things stagnate here. There are enough Dull Comics in the world without any Marvel titles slipping back into their ranks. I'm not crazy, though, at least not in a hero-destructive way.

AND NOW A WORD FROM THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT

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A PROBLEM SOLVED!

Since I seem to be having a lot of trouble finding time to take a vacation—or sleep, or eat, or do anything but my job, I recently decided to combine a couple of little vacations with some work.

Two weeks ago, superstar artist/writer Jim Starlin invited a bunch of us up to his beautiful, upstate New York home. Among those present were artist Bernie Wrightson and his wife, colorist Michelle Brand, artist Carl Potts, artist/writer Bob Layton, colorist Christie Scheer, and of course, Jim Starlin and his wife, painter Dana Graziunas. We all played racquetball at Jim's club, the Tiger Fitness Center in nearby Kingston, ate a magnificent meal at Rudi's, a renowned area restaurant, picnicked on Jim's huge lawn, and enjoyed the Adirondack scenery. In between things, I wrote a few memos, answered some important mail, consulted with Jim about his new *Dreadstar* series, worked out a deal with Bernie to do a cover for an upcoming *Dog Strange* Special. Edition reprint, and signed Bob to a Spider-Man Graphic Novel contract!

Last week, I met art scripter David Michelinie and ace inker Brett Breeding in Atlantic City for two days. We stayed in luxury at Caesar's Regency Hyatt on the Boardwalk, ate in several terrific restaurants, gambled a little, and in general enjoyed the resort facilities. In between things, I wrote a treatment for a possible TV show that I can't tell you about yet, answered some business questions of Brett's, and worked out an Avengers Graphic Novel plot with Dave.

Now that's how to work!

ATTENTION COMIC SHOP OWNERS!

We'd like to help our readers find your stores. If you'd like your store's name and location mentioned in an upcoming special edition of this column, write to:

Carol Kallish
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LET'S MEET!

I'm really going to take a break. Watch this space for our first Guest Columnist!

Hang in there

Stan Lee

WATCH FOR...

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE
MAVEL
UNIVERSE

ON SALE NOW!

THE TYPE BOX

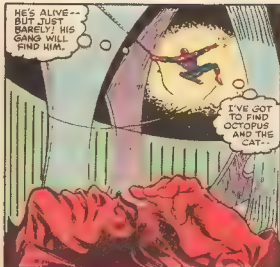
ROM #98 — Written by B.J. MANTLO. Breakdown by SAL BUSCEMA. Finishes by IAN AKIN and BRIAN GARVEY. Just another incredible adventure of the amazing Spaceknights as he progresses paths with Shang-Chi, Master of Kung Fu, Bill and Sal do again, and the book Magna. Akin and Garvey have been giving this book a joy to behold. But don't take our word—behold it for yourself!

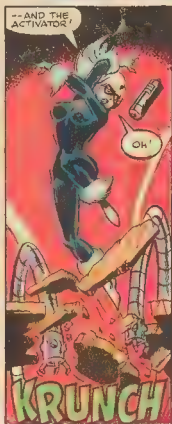
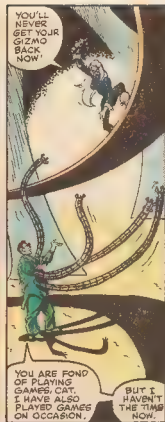
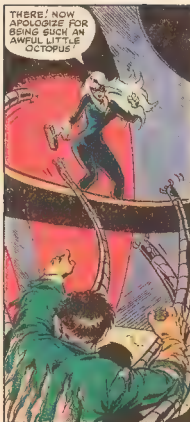
VISION AND SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #4 — Written by B.J. MANTLO. Done by RICK LEONARDI. Inks by IAN AKIN and BRIAN GARVEY. The evening conclusion to this 4-issue extravaganza. Enter the X-Men, a supreme adversary—Magna! And the news he brings about Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch is alone worth the cover price. But that's only a small part of the month's joys on.

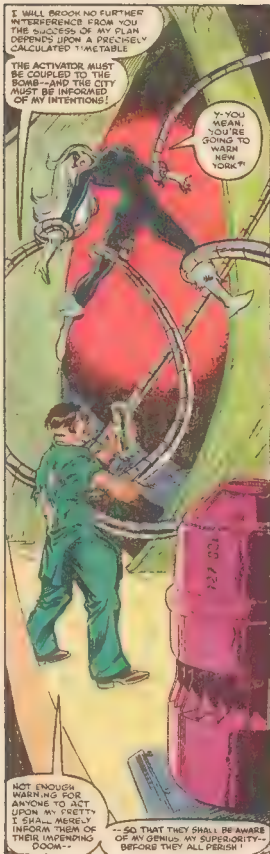
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #2 — This month, from the '80s through the '90s, the book is the second issue of the monthly 12-issue series that will give you the inside info on our heroes and villains, it's a comprehensive, comprehensive, informative, and entertaining guide. Organized and edited by MARK GREENWALD.

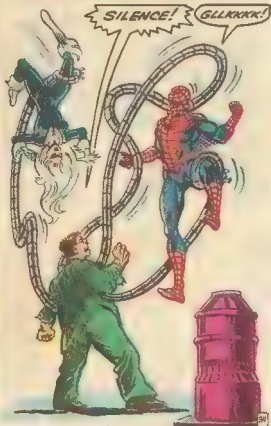
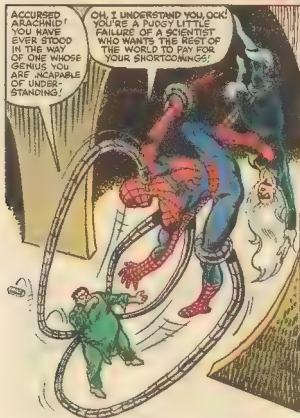
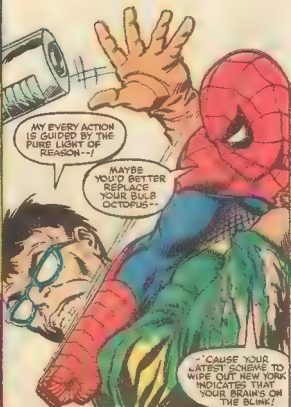
THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

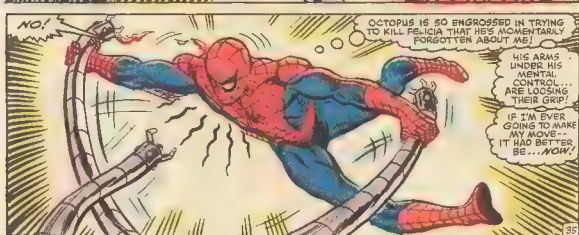
- MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #98 The Thing, Daredevil, Jeo Men and more!
 - TEAM AMERICA #9
 - SPIDER-WOMAN #48
 - DAZZLER #24
 - KAZAR #23
 - DAPEDEVIL #191
 - AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #237
 - CAPTAIN AMERICA #278
 - THOR #328
 - IRONCLAD #150
 - GHOST RIDER #37
 - MOON KNIGHT #28
 - INDIANA JONES #2
 - DOCTOR STRANGE #3
 - INCREDIBLE HULK #280
 - AVENGERS #228
 - CONAN #23
 - MARVEL TALES #165 — Reunited AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #11 The Return of Doctor Octopus by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO
 - X-MEN #198 — Special double-sized issue! ROM #29
 - POWER MAN/IRON FIST #90
 - VISION/SCARLET WITCH (Limited Series) #4 — The awesome conclusion! O.I. JOE #8
 - FANTASTIC FOUR #251
 - MARVEL TEAM-UP #126 — Spider-Man and the Hulk! Plus Luke Cage and the Son of Satan
 - IRON MAN #167
 - PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #75 — Special double-sized issue!
 - DEFENDERS #116
 - STAR WARS #68
 - MASTER OF KUNG FU #121
 - WHAT IF #37
 - THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #2
- MARVEL MAGAZINES
- SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #84
- SPECIAL EVENTS
- X-MEN SPECIAL EDITION #1 — Reunited the very first appearance of the New X-Men, plus an all-new story starring Kitty Pryde by CHRIS CLAREMONT and DAVE COGARM
 - WARLOCK #3 — by JIM STARLIN











LET HER GO,
OCTOPUS!
PUT HER DOWN!

FWAK

PUT HER
DOWN! DON'T
FORCE ME TO
TEAR YOU LIMB
FROM LIMB--

SNAK

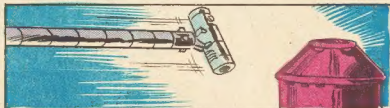
--FROM
LIMB!!



OTTO OCTAVIUS
DEFENDS HIMSELF
WITH TWO HUMAN
ARMS AND THREE
MECHANICAL ONES.

MEANWHILE,
WITH HIS
REMAINING
APPENDAGE--

---HE ATTEMPTS TO ASSURE
HIMSELF OF TOTAL VICTORY!

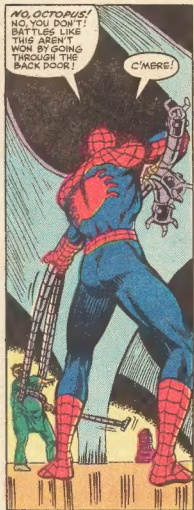


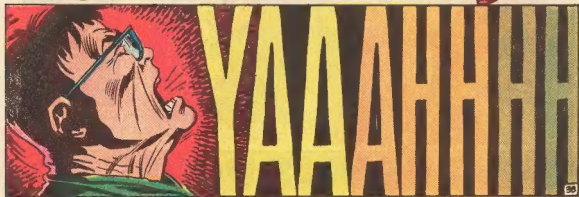
NO, OCTOPUS!
NO, YOU DON'T!
BATTLES LIKE
THIS AREN'T
WON BY GOING
THROUGH THE
BACK DOOR!

C'MERE!

YOU WENT TOO FAR THIS TIME!
YOU TRIED TO DESTROY NEW
YORK CITY--AND YOU HURT
THE WOMAN I THINK I LOVE!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH!

I'M TIRED OF
YOU, OCTOPUS!
YOUR ARMS MAKE
YOU A MENACE,
TUBBY--IT'S
YOUR ARMS THAT
CARRY OUT YOUR
GRUESOME
SCHEMES!







NEXT MONTH: **"AT DEATH'S DOOR!"** WILL SPIDER-MAN LOSE THE LOVE HE'S FOUND?!